

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method comprising:

determining at least two meaningful words in a program title of an electronic program guide, wherein each of the at least two meaningful words appears at least once in a database, the at least two meaningful words including a first word and a second word;

determining the first word appears in the database at a greater frequency than the second word;

determining the first word is a less descriptive word in response to determining the first word appears in the database with a greater frequency than the second word;

selectively removing the less descriptive word from the program title;

determining a plurality of essential words of the program title based on a meaning of the program title, wherein the plurality of essential words convey the meaning of the program title;

determining the number of characters necessary to display the plurality of essential words; and

removing an essential word if the number of characters necessary to display the plurality of essential words is greater than the specified number of characters, to create an abbreviated program title; and

displaying the abbreviated program title in a program title field of the electronic program guide.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further including:

determining at least one relational word of the program title; and

replacing the at least one relational word with a representative character.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further including:

abbreviating at least one of the plurality of essential words if the number of characters necessary to display the plurality of essential words is greater than the specified number of characters.

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the at least one nonessential, nonrelational word comprises all of the words selected from the group consisting of adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, and articles.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein the at least one essential word comprises all of the words selected from the group consisting of subject, object nouns, and verbs.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 5¹, wherein an essential word occurring most frequently in a database is removed.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A machine-readable storage medium containing instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform:

determining at least two meaningful words in a program title, wherein each of the at least two meaningful words appears at least once in a database, the at least two meaningful words including a first word and a second word;

determining the first word appears in the database at a greater frequency than the second word;

determining the first word is a less descriptive word in response to determining the first word appears in the database with a greater frequency than the second word;

selectively removing the less descriptive word from the program title;

determining a plurality of essential words of the program title based on a meaning of the program title, wherein the plurality of essential words convey the meaning of the program title;

determining the number of characters necessary to display the plurality of essential words; and

removing an essential word if the number of characters necessary to display the plurality of essential words is greater than the specified number of characters, to create an abbreviated program title; and

displaying the abbreviated program title in a program title field of an onscreen program guide.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The machine-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein further comprising instructions for:

determining at least one relational word of the program title; and
replacing the at least one relational word with a representative character.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The machine-readable storage medium of claim 11, further comprising instructions for:

abbreviating at least one of the plurality of essential words if the number of characters necessary to display the plurality of essential words is greater than the specified number of characters.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The machine-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein the at least one nonessential, nonrelational word comprises all of the words selected from the group consisting of adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, and articles.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The machine-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the at least one essential word comprises all of the words selected from the group consisting of subject, object nouns, and verbs.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The machine-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein an essential word occurring most frequently in a database is removed.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An apparatus comprising:
a memory; and

a processor configured to, upon execution of one or more computer readable instructions stored in the memory, perform:

(a) determining at least two meaningful words in a program title, wherein each of the at least two meaningful words appears at least once in a database, the at least two meaningful words including a first word and a second word;

(b) determining the first word appears in the database at a greater frequency than the second word;

(c) determining the first word is a less descriptive word in response to determining the first word appears in the database at a greater frequency than the second word; and

(d) selectively removing the less descriptive word from the program title;

(e) determining a plurality of essential words of the program title based on a meaning of the program title, wherein the plurality of essential words convey the meaning of the program title;

(f) determining the number of characters necessary to display the plurality of essential words; and

(g) removing an essential word if the number of characters necessary to display the plurality of essential words is greater than the specified number of characters, to create an abbreviated program title; and

a display device configured to display the abbreviated program title in a program title field of an onscreen program guide.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the processor is further configured to:

parse the text of the program title;

determine at least one nonessential, nonrelational word of the program title;

remove the nonessential, nonrelational word from the program title;

determine at least one relational word of the program title; and

replace the at least one relational word with a representative character.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the processor is further configured to:

parse the text of the program title;

determine at least one nonessential, nonrelational word of the program title;

remove the nonessential, nonrelational word from the program title;

determine at least one relational word of the program title; and

replace the at least one relational word with a representative character;

abbreviate at least one of the plurality of essential words if the number of characters necessary to display the plurality of essential words is greater than the specified number of characters.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein in addition to removing the less descriptive word, the method further includes:

parsing the text of the program title,

determining at least one nonessential, nonrelational word of the program title; and

removing the nonessential, nonrelational word from the program title.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The machine-readable storage medium of claim 9, further comprising instructions for:

parsing the text of the program title,

determining at least one nonessential, nonrelational word of the program title; and

removing the nonessential, nonrelational word from the program title.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:

parsing the text of the program title,

determining at least one nonessential, nonrelational word of the program title; and

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removing the nonessential, nonrelational word from the program title.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the apparatus is a set-top box.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the apparatus is a head end.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 24, wherein a satellite transmits a signal to a satellite dish connected to the set-box, which is connected to a television.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the television is the display device.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the database includes a database of program titles.

Claim 29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Canceled)